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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Food Distribution Administration Washington 25. D. C.

OCT 1 1 1943

April 20, 1943 P 1 CH OF AGRICULTURE

FILB INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM NO. I

To:

Commodity Branch Liaison Representatives of FILB

From:

Arthur J. Holmaas, Acting Chief, Food Industries Labor Branch

Subject: Current Manpower Developments

Information on various current activities of the FILB will undoubtedly be of direct interest to your respective Branches. To keep you informed of current activities in the labor field, we shall periodically send you informational memoranda. We shall expect you to circulate this information to those persons in your Branches directly concerned. Those items which are of a confidential nature and not to be made public will be so designated.

- 1. The Executive Order of April 8 removing from the jurisdiction of the War Labor Board wage adjustments on the grounds of inequalities and effective prosecution of the war has resulted in the turning down of a large number of applications from food processors. Current disparity between farm, defense plant and food processors' wage rates threatens food processing schedules. The FILB is just completing a survey of the wage situation in about 140 processing plants. It is evident that some adjustments are urgently needed and we feel certain that a decision will be forthcoming very soon.
- 2. Approval of the War Manpower Commission has been obtained for removing the restricting phrase "Canning and Preserving" from Activity and Occupation Bulletin No. 6, after the items "fish," "fruits," "nuts." and "vegetables." This makes it clear that all types of processing activities as applied to these foods are certified as essential activities.
- 3. An interpretation has been obtained from the War Manpower Commission to the effect that "farm product assembly service" listed as essential in Activity and Occupation Bulletin No. 5, includes gathering of various farm products such as dairy products from farms and bring them to some central concentration point. This means that country milk hauling is certified as an essential activity.
- 4. The War Manpower Commission has also interpreted "farm product assembly" and "initial processing" on Bulletin 5 to include the gathering of fresh fruits and vegetables into packing sheds and the packing or packaging of such products.
- 5. To handle strikes and walkouts in food plants, a precedure has been developed with the War Labor Board and the Conciliation Service whereby a conciliator can be on the scene of the misunderstanding within 24 hours after it is reported to the FILB.

